(c) To reduce the ash content in coal the following measures are taken by Coal India Limited:—

(i) Adherence to the envisaged mining sequence laid out in the mining method itself.

(ii) Picking of oversize stone/boulders, extraneous materials etc.

(iii) Size reduction in coal handling plants/crushing machines thereby segregating different size fractions and eliminating the impurities of higher density.

(iv) Adopting proper blasting procedure/technique for reducing the possibility of ad-mixture of coal with over burden materials. Keeping overburden benches sufficiently advanced from coal benches in opencast mines to avoid falling of over burden on coal bench/face.

(v) Washing/upgradation of coal in coal beneficiation plants thereby reducing the ash content in beneficiated coal.

Different types of imported coal have different ranges of ash content which is much less compared to indigenous coal. As ash in Indian coal is intimately mixed with coaly substance, it has difficult washing characteristics. Washing Indian coal to the ash level of imported coal will drastically reduce the yield and is techno-economically not viable.

(d) Ash content of imported coal varies from as low as 1-2% to about 15%.

Loss-making coal mines

4179. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the number with location of chronically loss-making coal mines in the country:

(b) the cumulative losses incurred by these mines as on 31st March, 2002:

(c) how Government propose to tackle the problems of these coal mines: and

(d) how far the mafia activities are responsible for this state of affairs?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) Number of Chronically loss making mines of Coal India Ltd. and its subsidiaries as

on 31.3.2002 are given below:—

Company	Location	Number of loss making mines
Eastern Coalfields Limited	West Bengal/ Jharkhand	90
Bharat Coking Coal Limited	Jharkhand/West Bengal	80
Central Coalfields Limited	Jharkhand	53
Northern Coalfields Limited	U.P./M.P.	Nil
Western Coalfields Limited	M.P./Maharashtra	40
South Eastern Coalfields Limited	M.P./Chhattisgarh	28
Mahanadi Coalfields Limited	Orissa	10
North Eastern Coalfields	Assam	3

(b) Cumulative losses incurred by these mines as on 31.3.2002 are given below:—

Company	Amount (Rs. in crores)
Eastern Coalfields Limited	4124.14*
Bharat Coking Coal Limited	4820.84*
Central Coalfields Limited	523.71
Northern Coalfields Limited	Nil
Western Coalfields Limited	2011.32
South Eastern Coalfields Limited	1230.05
Mahanadi Coalfields Limited	616.61
North Eastern Coalfields	316.99

*for the company as a whole since mine-wise data is not readily available.

(c) Subsidiary companies are taking various measures like re-organisation, suitable mechanisation, rationalisation of manpower deployment etc. Suspension of operation in a phased manner in certain heavily losing mines has also been envisaged in the revival plans for ECL, BCCL and CCL.

(d) No known mafia activities have directly contributed to the above state of affairs.

Mining activities in coal blocks

4180. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether major corporate houses are sitting idle on high quality coal blocks despite low ash content coal being allotted to them for captive mining;

(b) if so, the reasons for not starting mining activity in their respective blocks; and

(c) the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) to (c) Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries have identified 121 blocks/sub-blocks and Singareni Collieries Company Limited has identified 7 blocks for allocation to public/private sector for captive mining as on date. Out of the above blocks 27 blocks have been allotted so far taking into account the quality and quantity of reserves for various specified end uses whereas mining has been started in 4 blocks. While allotting the blocks, the parties are advised to obtain lease of mining rights after complying with various statutory procedural measures and also to take steps related to installation of the end use plants. The progress of measures taken by the companies who have been allotted captive mining blocks, for obtaining a mining lease are followed up from time to time. After allocation of blocks the other procedural measures under the statute include recognition of a competent person to prepare mining plan, preparation of mining plan itself, obtaining approval of the Central Government thereon and recommendation of the concerned State Governments for the previous approval of the Central Government before a mining lease is granted by the State Government enabling a company to start mining operation. The cases of various parties allotted captive mining blocks are in various stages of the above procedures.